(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In view of the severity of the drought experienced by a number of States this year, the Government has utilised public foodgrains stocks for various welfare schemes (*i.e.* Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Nutrition Programme, Food for Work, Mid- Day-Meal, Hostel SC/ ST/OBC, Annapurna, World Food Programme, Indigent People etc.) so as to provide relief to the poor. The total offtake of foodgrains under the schemes during April-December 2002 has been 74.58 lakh tonnes. This is in addition to the normal supply of foodgrains through the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for Below Poverty Line (BPI)/Above Poverty Line (APL) households.

Aid by Asian Development Bank

710. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to double its volume of aid to India during the next four years;

(b) if so, what other social sectors are to be covered by the ADB fundings apart from infrastructure funding; and

(c) whether the ADB plans to float rupee denominated long-term bonds in Indian capital markets and if so, whether the RBI clearance has been obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The recent country strategy and programme mission 2003-06 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed to provide assistance of US $ 7.5 billion to India during calendar years 2003 to 2006. The volume of assistance is proposed to be raised in a phased manner from US $ 1.1 billion in 2002 to US $ 2.5 billion in 2006. These loans are proposed in transport, energy, urban infrastructure, financial, agriculture and natural resources sectors.

(c) Yes Sir. The modalities to operationalise the proposal in this regard are being examined in the Government for which RBI's clearance is being obtained.